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1 March 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

State Dept. review completed

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*South Vietnam: A Buddhist "peace offensive," calling for an end to foreign intervention in both North and South Vietnam and an early cease-fire may be in the making.

In recent days Tri Quang, Tam Chau, and other Buddhist leaders have issued statements varying in detail but generally containing the same "peace" theme. Pamphlets to this effect also have been circulated, and yesterday another Buddhist peace meeting was held in Saigon.

Such a Buddhist campaign could gain rapid momentum among the war-weary population and work to undercut South Vietnam's effort against the Viet Cong. This sort of movement is highly vulnerable to Communist exploitation, and the manifestations to date probably already reflect their hand to some extent.

[The Quat government is concerned over this threat, and is preparing countermeasures. Premier Quat, who reportedly has received full cabinet support on this question, is said to be planning to speak out strongly against a negotiated settlement under present conditions. The cabinet has also approved the firing of some 300 civil servants who signed a document, dated 16 February, calling on the government and the National Liberation Front to end the fighting and negotiate a settlement/

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Indonesia: Moves on several fronts have furthered the mounting anti-American campaign within Indonesia.

American rubber estates in Sumatra were placed under Indonesian Government management on 26 February, and this has now been followed by the "temporary" closure of all USIS libraries in Indonesia. During the period since last August, three of the five USIS facilities in the country have been "temporarily" closed.

Communist domination of the Indonesian press has also been tightened by a 25 February banning of eleven Djakarta newspapers which had supported the anti-Communist and now defunct "Body to Promote Sukarnoism."

During the past week the US Embassy in Djakarta has reported a general pattern of accelerating harassments directed against American citizens and firms. This trend has been encouraged by recent vitriolic speeches by Sukarno and other Indonesian leaders. Sukarno has told Ambassador Jones that current American policy in Asia makes it difficult for him to halt further anti-American incidents.

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USSR: The Soviet Union has carefully avoided any description of today's Communist Party meeting in Moscow which could be exploited by Peiping as evidence of the Soviet leaders' intent to force an acrimonious public debate on the basic issues of the Sino-Soviet dispute. Moscow TASS has referred to the gathering as a "consultative meeting," reflecting the USSR's apparent desire to represent the Communist Party talks as the first of a series of regular consultations on ways to strengthen bloc solidarity. [TASS' official listing of the parties attending omits reference to the Chinese Communist, Albanian, Japanese, Indonesian, North Korean, North Vietnamese, Rumanian, and British parties.]

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Japan - Communist China: Japanese Prime Minister Sato is expected soon to reverse his position and approve government financing of the sale of a second vinylon plant and a 12,000-ton freighter to Communist China. Since his decision in January, Sato has been under increasing pressure from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and Japanese business interests, which believe the government should play a more active role in promoting trade with Communist China by granting long-term government financing of plant sales. To preserve its relations with the Nationalists, Tokyo is planning to grant a \$150 million credit on easy terms now under discussion.

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